Listing of, and Amendments to, the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus adapted to communicate via a network, comprising:

a firewall~~, for identifying those packets associated with inappropriate activity,~~ including a set of rules for identifying packets associated with inappropriate activity, the rules in the set being separated into a plurality of classes; and

~~at least one user discernable indicator associated with said firewall, for contemporaneously indicating that a number of packets associated with said inappropriate activity have exceeded a threshold level~~

an indicator device for providing a plurality of user discernable indicators, wherein each of the plurality of user discernable indicators is associated with a different one of the plurality of classes, and wherein a respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered if one or more of said plurality of rules corresponding to one of said plurality of classes associated with the respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is violated.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises at least one of a modem, a router and a bridge.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of user discernable indicators comprises at least one visual indicator.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said at least one visual indicator comprises a light emitting device proximate to said apparatus.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said at least one visual indicator comprises a highlighted icon displayed on a computing device.

7. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

defining a set of rules to detect inappropriate communication activity on a computer or network;

separating the rules in the set into a plurality of classes;

associating each of the plurality of classes with a different one of a plurality of user discernable indicators;

examining data traffic to determine whether at least one ~~of a plurality~~ of the rules has been violated~~, said rules defining indicators of inappropriate communication activity~~; and

~~in the case of a rule of at least a first class of the plurality of rules being violated , filtering said data traffic violating said first class rule and triggering a user discernable indicator~~

in the case that at least one of the rules of a first one of said plurality of classes has been violated, filtering said data traffic violating the at least one of the rules of the first one of said plurality of classes and providing a user discernable notification of said violation by triggering a respective one of the plurality of user discernable indicators associated with the first one of said plurality of classes.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining if a first threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to filtering said data traffic.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining if a first threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to triggering the user discernable indicator.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein in the case of at least one of the rules of a second one of said plurality of classes being violated, filtering said data traffic violating the at least one of the rules of the ~~said~~ second one of said plurality of classes ~~rule~~ and triggering ~~the~~ a particular one of said plurality of user discernable indicators associated with the second one of the plurality of classes.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining if a second threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to filtering said data traffic.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining if a second threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to triggering the user discernable indicator.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein in the case of at least one of the rules of a third one of said plurality of classes being violated, filtering said data traffic violating the at least one of the rules of the ~~said~~ third one of said plurality of classes ~~rule~~ and triggering ~~the~~ a given one of said plurality of user discernable indicators associated with the third one of the plurality of classes.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining if a third threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to filtering said data traffic.

15. (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining if a third threshold level of rule violation has been exceeded prior to triggering the user discernable indicator.

16. (currently amended) A cable modem, comprising:

downstream processing circuitry;

upstream processing circuitry;

a controller in communication with said downstream circuits, upstream circuitry, and a memory; ~~and~~

a firewall program ~~having associated with it a set of rules,~~ including a set of rules for identifying packets associated with inappropriate activity, the rules being separated into a plurality of classes, said firewall program being resident in said memory and executable by said controller to cause examining data of packets from said downstream and upstream circuitry ~~such that inappropriate activity above a threshold level results in the triggering for at least one visual indicator positioned proximate said cable modem, said at least one visual indicator for discernable viewing by a user~~; and

a plurality of user discernable indicators, wherein each of the plurality of user discernable indicators is associated with a different one of the plurality of classes and wherein a respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is triggered if one or more of the rules corresponding to one of said plurality of classes associated with the respective one of said plurality of user discernable indicators is violated.

17. (currently amended) The cable modem of claim 16, wherein said ~~at least one visual~~ plurality of user discernable indicators comprises at least one light emitting diode (LED).

18. (currently amended) The cable modem of claim 16, wherein said ~~at least one visual~~ plurality of user discernable indicators comprises a first LED for signifying a filtering event and a second LED for signifying filtering data packets deemed pernicious in said set of rules.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said ~~at least one visual~~ plurality of user discernable indicators comprises a highlighted icon displayed on a computer device.